

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated January 26, 2005. Claims 2-6, 10-12, and 26-41 are now pending in this application. Claims 1, 7-9, and 13-25 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 10, and 11 have been amended. Claims 26-41 have been added to provide Applicants with a more complete scope of protection. Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 10, 11, 26, 27, 29-32, 34, 35, and 37-40 are in independent form.

Paragraph 1 of the Office Action states that the Information Disclosure Statement filed June 27, 2001 fails to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(1), which requires a list of all patents, publications, or other information submitted for consideration by the Office. Paragraph 1 further states that that Information Disclosure Statement has been placed in the application file, but the information referred to therein has not been considered.

The Examiner's comments are not understood because Applicants did not file an Information Disclosure Statement on June 27, 2001. Applicants did file an Information Disclosure Statement on September 28, 2001, but the Examiner has initialed the Form PTO-1449 filed therewith acknowledging that he considered the information cited thereon. Applicants assume that the mentioned statement in the outstanding Office Action was erroneous; if that is not the case, the Examiner is requested to clarify his statement.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that Claims 2-6, 10-12, and 15-19 would be allowable if rewritten so as not to depend from a rejected claim, and with

no change in scope. Since Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 10, and 11 have been so rewritten, they are now believed to be in condition for allowance.

Independent Claims 26, 27, 29, and 30-32 are method claims corresponding, respectively, to apparatus Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 10, and 11, and as such Claims 26, 27, 29, and 30-32 are also believed to be in condition for allowance.

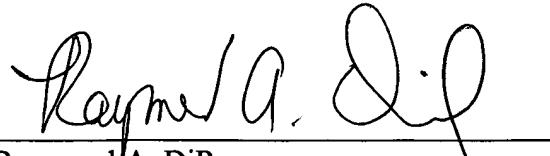
Independent Claims 34, 35, 37, and 38-40 are computer-readable storage medium claims corresponding, respectively, to apparatus Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 10, and 11, and as such Claims 34, 35, 37, and 38-40 are also believed to be in condition for allowance.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all of the pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. As such, Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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